

ATTENTION: YOU MAY USE THE INTERNET ONLY ONCE PER DAY

INTERNET USE POLICY

- 1.) The Dover Public Library provides workstations for free public access to the Internet as an informational, educational, and recreational resource.
- 2.) The Library expects that use of the Internet will be responsible and ethical, consistent with the purpose for which this resource is provided. Library staff reserves the right to monitor use of the Internet workstations to ensure compliance with this policy. Staff has the right to cancel or interrupt the use of the Internet at any time. ***Violations will result in loss of Internet privileges.***
- 3.) All Internet workstations are located in public areas and images on the screen may be visible to a wide audience. Internet users must respect the rights and sensitivities of others, consistent with the library's rules of conduct. Prohibited are:
 - Attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others, attempting to gain unauthorized access to any computer system, damaging or altering software or hardware components of any network or database.
 - Sending, receiving, or displaying text or graphics which may be construed by library staff as offensive to the public.

Printing charges are \$.10 per page; or, data may be downloaded to a library-purchased 3.5" disk (\$1.00). No user may download information onto the computer's hard drive.

Dover Public Library Policy on Children's Access to the Internet
Children's Room
October 10, 2003

Many wonderful library computer resources are now on the Internet or Internet-enabled, such as our online catalog, EBSCO magazine products, and the Encarta reference encyclopedia. In the Children's Room, we offer access to these superb resources to any child with a Dover Public library card. We support equal access for children to our many library resources, including the Internet.

We welcome children through sixth grade and parents accompanying children to use our computers in the Children's Room. Teens and adults without children with them will be asked to use the computers in the Adult areas on the Main Floor.

Children's Room staff will regularly supervise children's Internet use. Viewing websites with objectionable text or displaying images inappropriate for a public setting violate the library's Internet Access Policy and are not allowed. The patron will be asked to exit the site. Non-compliance will result in loss of Internet privileges throughout the whole library.

Since all Children's Room computers are in public view, patrons are encouraged to report any observed inappropriate use to Library staff. Library staff will then take immediate action to correct any behavior that violates policy.

If, as a parent, you do not want Internet access for your child, please feel free to tell us. We can place a block on your child's barcode so that s/he cannot access Internet resources. Be advised that they will then have limited computer resources and information-rich databases available to them. Otherwise, all children with a card will have access to our Web-enhanced resources.

Come and talk to library staff in the Children's Room if you have any concerns or questions about our policy.

Dover Public Library Policy on Use of Internet Filters

(adapted from the NH Library Association's Statement on the Use of Internet Filters)

The Dover Public Library supports the principle of open access to information and ideas, regardless of the medium in which they exist. The Library believes that a democracy can only succeed if its citizens have access to the information necessary to form opinions and make decisions on issues affecting their lives. The Library regards this access to information as a right of free citizens. The Library endorses the American Library Association's Code of Ethics, Freedom to Read Statement, the Library Bill of Rights, and the interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights. The Dover Public Library has developed and adopted its own *"Policy for Public Access to the Internet"* (see attachment) which is consistent with our resources and our mission and supports these ideals.

The Dover Public Library recognizes concerns regarding access to the Internet. The use of Internet filters to restrict access has been suggested, but poses many problems for libraries. Filters block valuable information, thus preventing the Library from fulfilling one of its most basic missions. Because of their inherent imperfections, and an environment that changes daily, Internet filters offer parents and caregivers a false sense of security. In addition, filters may prove unconstitutional in public institutions, since some of the information they block is constitutionally protected speech.

The Dover Public Library encourages its librarians to develop and promote web sites, including links to resources that best satisfy users' interests and needs, and instruct users on effective searching techniques.

The Dover Public Library endorses the New Hampshire Library Association's position on filters which "does not recommend the use of Internet filters in libraries, and emphatically opposes attempts by federal and state governments to set such policy for libraries" and we gratefully acknowledge them for making their resolution available.

Approved___11/4/99_____

Dover Public Library

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